

TOBACCO STORY IN PICTURES



(1) PLANTS ARE EXAMINED SHORTLY AFTER PLANTING



(2) THIS IS HOW PLANTS LOOK AS THEY NEAR MATURITY



(3) FARMER HOLDS ONE OF THE BIGGER LEAVES IN THE FIELD

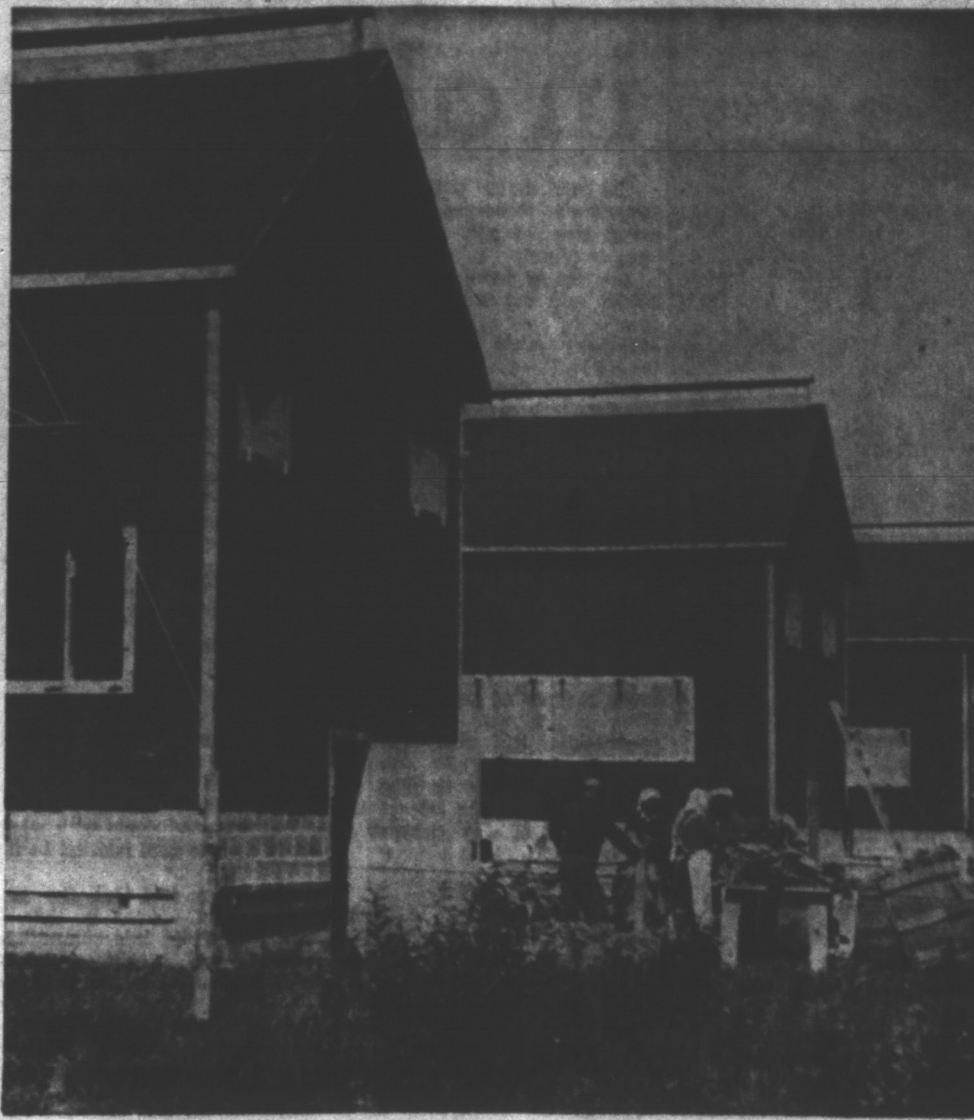


(4) TYING AND RACKING ARE ESSENTIAL BEFORE DRYING



(5) THIS IS A PILE OF TOBACCO LEAVES READY FOR THE KILN

INCREASED PRODUCTION IN TOBACCO AND BEEF LIVESTOCK HOLD IMPORTANT ECONOMIC ROLE IN PROVINCE



(6) THESE ARE KILNS THAT WILL DRY LEAVES

Wide expansion seen for tobacco industry

Greatly expanded production of tobacco appears to be indicated this year with Agriculture Minister Andrew MacRae estimating a 300-acre crop, almost four times the production of a year ago when private growers produced the crop commercially in this province for the first time.

Though most of the production expansion is concentrated in an area of South Central Kings County, individual growers are planning production in the North Rustico and Alberton areas and a few close to Souris.

Earlier planting planned for this year, it is suggested, may produce greater yields. With most growers planning to produce their own tobacco plants in new green houses, it is expected to get the crop planted early in June, with scattered rumors heard of a late May start,

although May plantings are being discouraged.

Production reports varied with the grower, but a high of something better than 1250 pounds per acre compared with some low yields of less than 1,000 pounds were reported for 1961.

A total of 1,240 bales was reported from the 80 acres which would mean a total crop of approximately 75,000 pounds. Bales run generally around 60 pounds apiece but some growers packed slightly heavier bales.

John Power, Greenfield who had a yield of better than 1250 pounds per acre on his 13-acre plot, plans to grow 23 or 24 acres this year. And he hopes to get an early June planting start. It was June 28 before planting was completed last spring, he said.

The late arrival of plants from Ontario was largely responsible for late planting in

1961 but that will be remedied this year with most growers producing their own.

Average tobacco production in Ontario normally runs around 1,400 pounds per acre, it was learned from Marcel Moyart who has built a second greenhouse at Upper Montague and plans to grow up to 30 acres this year. Several growers are building plastic greenhouses at 25 per cent the cost of the glass variety.

An experienced grower, he was satisfied with his crop, the first grown on his farm but expects to step up production considerably in future years.

A new tobacco development at Brudenell is expected to produce up to 40 acres where Morris Memulis is one of the partners.

A goal of 250,000 head of cattle, double the present population, has been set for this province and an estimated 1,000 head of beef breeding stock will be imported this year to add to the several hundred that came in during 1961, it has been suggested by Livestock Director L. W. Roper.

The goal of a quarter million cattle compares with the some 118,000 cattle in the province prior to last year's importations.

Upwards of 450 beef animals were brought in for breeding purposes last year. They included an estimated 120 Aberdeen Angus cattle, a much smaller number of Herefords and approximately 300 Shorthorns.

Aberdeen Angus breeders reported 42 members at their annual meeting held last month, a phenomenal growth from only six or seven a year ago, by the province's fastest growing beef cattle organization.

SHORTHORN TOPS
The Shorthorn breed still has

the most animals, although it is divided between the Scotch or Beef type animal, and the Dual Purpose, or milk and beef type, which has achieved growing popularity here in recent years. This has been sparked in part by outstanding success in major show rings, including the Royal Winter Fair, Toronto, which is generally recognized as the show window of Canadian agriculture.

Breeders of Dual Purpose Shorthorns have been the most successful of all Island cattlemen in Royal shows during the past few years.

Daniel Jewell, North River, had the grand champion bull at the Royal two years ago and he was proud of the fact that he bred and raised him on his own farm. The sire, Chestnut Royal Technicolor, is now in the artificial breeding unit used by New Brunswick and P.E.I. breeders.

Other Island breeders have achieved almost equally laudable success in the past few years.

A concerted drive towards increased beef cattle production has been sparked by agricultural department people here who urge production at home of a much larger part of the tremendous amount of beef consumed in the Maritime area.

One man who has imported many beef cattle for sale to prospective breeders, estimates that there is the equivalent of two carloads a week or more than 100 carloads a year brought into this province alone.

There is a shortage of six or seven million pounds a year in the Maritime area, it has been stated by top agricultural spokesmen.

Though it has been stressed that efficient dairy producers should continue in business and maintain their quality and quantity, others have suggested that less efficient dairy producers might be advised to shift to beef production, particularly those who may have other revenue-producing activity on their farms.

Insurance covers 1962 potato crop

A system of crop insurance for potatoes is expected to get underway in time to cover this year's crop, it has been announced by Agriculture Minister Andrew B. MacRae.

There has been something less than enthusiastic reaction to the 145-bushel crop which Ottawa has insisted on using as an average, but Mr. MacRae observes that complete coverage is not available in other forms of insurance.

There is, for example, a lower rate on automobile insurance with \$100 deductible, than for a policy with \$25 deductible, he suggested.

Average potato production here runs something less than 250 bushels per acre, although good producers hit much higher yields.

Premiums have not been announced yet but it is hoped, Mr. MacRae states, to have it as close to \$5 per acre as possible.

Asked how the insurance premiums would work in practice, the minister explained that if a producer had a crop of 10 bushels less than the agreed average he would collect at the rate of 10 bushels per acre, at slightly more than \$1 per bushel which is the average price over the last 10 years.

Production and the condition of the crop are normally determined on field conditions but, it was explained, if there were indications at harvesting time of a fusarium infestation such as hit the province's crop a year ago, note would be taken of it, and inspectors could check the bins several weeks later to see if the rot threat had developed, and unusual damage could be assessed.

PRODUCTION AVERAGE
The Crop Insurance Act passed here last year included provision for tobacco coverage, but the federal government is insisting at present that a system of tobacco insurance be postponed until there is at least five years of growing experience, so a production average may be indicated.

But the minister says "we expect to have another look at it later this year "as we feel that we have established a fairly uniform production pattern—over three years of experience".

There is no tobacco crop insurance in existence in Canada as Ontario growers have never run into difficulty, and there is insurance coverage available through regular commercial channels.

Island's AI plan holds top place

Concentrated effort to further improve the quality of available sires is a feature of the work in artificial insemination of cattle, Dr. H. H. Kelly, provincial director of veterinary services, emphasizes.

Sire selection committees from the N.B., unit which is also used by Prince Edward Island and cattlemen, are working now on a plan for future development.

The committees which represent breeders in both provinces, are seeking male calves with excellent pedigreed sires. The youngsters will be tested to prove their ability as sires.

An outstanding dam that is nominated by a selection committee will be bred to the best sire available and an option for purchase will be taken on the calf, if it is a male. If it is a heifer the owner will have it for his own herd.

ALL DAIRY BREEDS
This is being done in all of

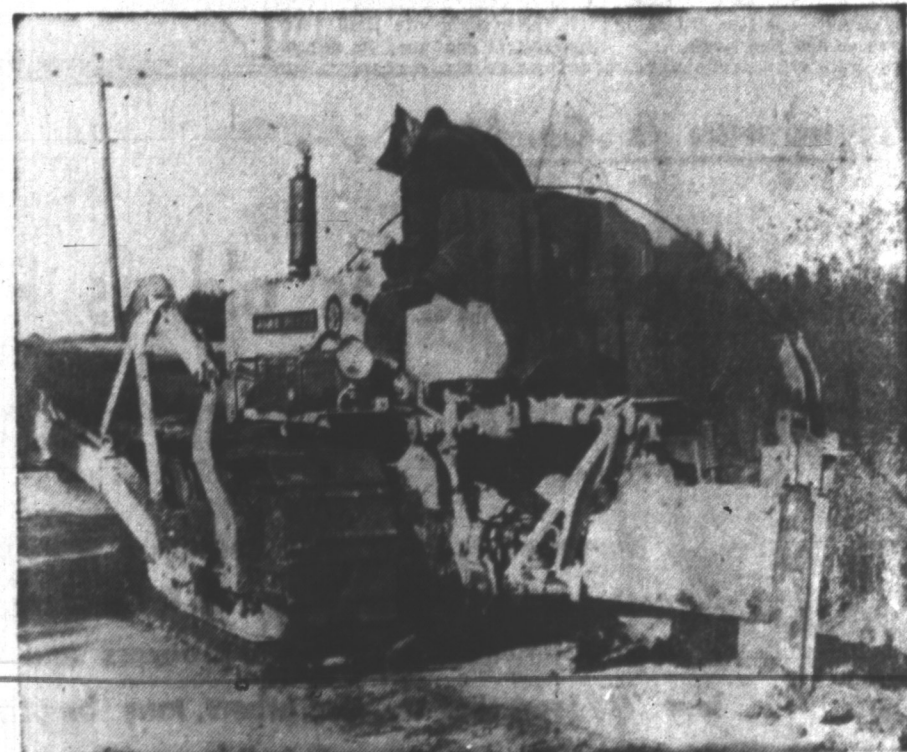
the dairy breeds, Dr. Kelly explained. P. E. I. has equal representation on the Holstein and Ayrshire selection committees, N.B. breeds many more Jersey and Guernsey cattle than are bred in this province.

The New Brunswick Artificial Breeding Co-operative is not under government control, but it is subsidized by both the N.B. and P. E. I. departments of agriculture. The co-operation has been good from the time that P.E.I. became interested in the unit, and it is becoming increasingly good each year, Dr. Kelly told this paper.

There has been a slight increase in the number of cattle bred artificially in this province during the past year. That comes on top of a 1960 report that this province led all others in Canada on the percentage of cattle being bred artificially.

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